

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 OIC-04 ISO-00 L-03

EB-11 OTPE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 FCC-03 SP-03 DRC-01 IOE-00

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P 061842Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8897

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NESCO

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION OF MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES

REFS: A) STATE 090290; B) PARIS 10355

1. AS URGED IN DEPT'S REFTEL, BEHRSTOCK AGREED MAY 3 TO DROPPING REFERENCE TO NAMES OF COUNTRIES WHOSE EXPERTS PARTICIPATED IN MARCH MEETING FROM INTRODUCTORY COVER PAGE TO BE SUBMITTED WITH REVISED DRAFT TEXT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

2. BEHRSTOCK STRESSED THAT INCLUSION OF FINAL REPORT WITH DRAFT DECLARATION TEXT WOULD HAVE FACILITATED POSSIBLE SOVIET TACTIC OF ATTACKING SECRETARIAT FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXPERTS' GENERALLY MORE RESTRICTIVE VIEWPOINTS, AS REFLECTED THEIR DRAFT DECLARATION TEXT, AND THE MUCH "DILUTED" SECRETARIAT TEXT PREPARED FOR 18TH GC.

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3. RE LANGUAGE CHANGE IN PARA. 2 ARTICLE I (REFTEL (B)),

BEHRSTOCK IN CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL ADVISOR LUSSIER PROPOSED REPLACING "AN OBLIGATION" BY "A RESPONSIBILITY" IN FIRST SENTENCE. LUSSIER CONSIDERS ANY USAGE OF "SHOULD" IMPLIES LEGALLY BINDING INTENT TO DECLARATION WHICH MEANT ONLY AS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES TO WHICH ADHERENCE IS VOLUNTARY. LUSSIER AND BEHRSTOCK FEEL "RESPONSIBILITY" IS MORE CONNOTATIVE OF MORAL RATHER THAN LEGAL DUTY AND IMPLIES THAT ULTIMATE CHOICE OF ADHERENCE RESTS WITH MEDIA THEMSELVES.

4. DEPT'S COMMENTS REQUESTED BY MAY 9 OR SOONEST THEREAFTER ON SUBSTITUTION PROPOSED PARA. 3 ABOVE.

5. PERMDEL AIR POUCHING COVER PAGE AND REVISED DRAFT TO IO/UNESCO.

6. COMMENT:

BEHRSTOCK HAS MADE GREAT EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. VIEWPOINTS ON DRAFT DECLARATION AND ESPECIALLY UNDERLYING ISSUES ON WHICH HE HOLDS SAME LIBERTARIAN OUTLOOK. HIS SUGGESTIONS RELATE MORE TO TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF HOW BEST TO PRESENT U.S. CASE THAN ANY FUNDAMENTAL SUBSTANTIVE VIEWPOINT, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES REVISED DRAFT CONSONANT WITH U.S. CONCERNS. AS EXPERTS MEETING IN MARCH REVEALED, U.S. VIRTUALLY ALONE AMONG MEMBER STATES IN REGARDING MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES FORMULATION AS POSING PRACTICAL THREAT TO FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. PERMDEL UNDERLINES THIS AS FOREMOST POLITICAL REALITY TO BE KEPT IN MIND BY DEPT AND OTHER AGENCIES WHEN DECIDING ON U.S. POSITION, AND ESPECIALLY THE MANNER OF ITS PRESENTATION, RE THIS DECLARATION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

IRWIN

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